

WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS  
FROM IRAQ

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise our troops—and our President—as we end our involvement in Iraq.

America's armed forces were called to duty, did everything asked of them and served with distinction. Their valor and dedication in serving our country half a world away has been an inspiration to me and to our nation. And now, as they leave the nation of Iraq, we here at home honor their sacrifice, the sacrifice of their families, and welcome them with open arms and open hearts. As we welcome those who are coming home, we must not forget the nearly 4,500 servicemembers who lost their lives and the more than 30,000 troops who were wounded in this conflict who, along with their families, have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

President Obama deserves much credit for keeping his promise to the American people to withdraw from the Iraq conflict and have our troops home by the holidays. Those of us in the House and the Senate must continue to honor our commitment to our veterans and their families, helping to ensure a future in which they can fulfill their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children.

**JOBS ARE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to incentives that add to unemployment and decrease tax revenues.

Strong consumer protection laws are the responsibility of each State in our Union and I support efforts to enforce them to protect our constituents. However, no reasonable person would favor an approach so draconian in its effect that it makes innocent employees victims. The impact on our hard-working union members is unfair and unwarranted. Proportionality in these cases is critical. Perverse incentives can be seen when the settlements in these cases are used to pay operating budgets of the agencies that bring the charges, especially if it encourages the targeting of out of state companies for huge settlements. The payments should be enough to compensate for any harm and to push the company to act in an appropriate manner according to law. Only in egregious or criminal circumstances should companies be forced out of business.

It is crucial to enforce strong consumer protection and deceptive advertising laws. In this economy, as we hasten to take measures to protect jobs, we have got to be mindful of incentives that put states revenue needs in competition with each other. Without question, the states must have the power to stop deceptive advertising and unfair competition, but they should not have the authority to abuse that power in ways that decrease other states tax revenues by forcing businesses to add thousands of Americans to the ranks of the

unemployed. I would encourage those enforcing our laws to take this into account.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY  
CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION  
ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2011*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania and across the country, we are moving forward to develop American sources of energy. This development will reduce energy prices for hardworking taxpayers, create jobs for Americans and lessen our dependence on foreign oil. As this important development moves forward, we must remain strongly committed to protecting our environment and ensuring these operations are safe and responsible.

The production of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania is an economic driver for our State but it also presents unique challenges. Thousands of wells have already been drilled in Pennsylvania, and many more and thousands of miles of Marcellus-related pipeline are planned in the Keystone State alone. Most of these facilities are unmanned and spread across rural areas, making monitoring and data communication difficult. Critical failures of these systems can cause untold environmental and economic damage, yet we may not know of these failures until far too much damage has been done. There is an urgent need for better systems to monitor wells and pipelines for leaks, damage and anomalies to protect the environment and the public.

The House has taken a step to address these deficiencies in passing H.R. 2845, the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Secretary of Energy to continue evaluating industry safety standards and readiness to respond to infrastructure failures. In performing these evaluations, I encourage the Secretary to investigate the utility of secured, meshed wireless networks. These meshed networks—multi-antenna, no-root meshed-radio systems—can provide continuous monitoring and then alert operations personnel and first responders to leaks and damage in real-time. They can be expanded as new operations are brought online and added to exploration vehicles like ships and trucks, improving communications potential in the critical first minutes after an incident.

As the Secretary moves forward with his safety review and evaluations pursuant to the bill, I encourage the consideration of secured, meshed wireless networks as a possible means of ensuring both real-time monitoring of remote energy infrastructure and swift, seamless response and communication in the event of leaks or other critical failures.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE SUNCOAST  
SEABIRD SANCTUARY

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, the largest and most successful non-profit wild bird hospital in the United States.

It is a privilege for me to represent the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores and to have seen firsthand the outstanding commitment of its staff that works to rehabilitate the more than 8,000 injured birds it admits each year.

The Sanctuary was founded in 1971 by zoologist Ralph T. Heath and is staffed by highly trained individuals equipped with emergency facilities, a surgical center, recovery areas, and an outdoor wild bird recuperation area. Admitting up to 159 different species per year, the Sanctuary is world renowned for its innovative rehabilitation techniques with over 80 percent of its admitted birds successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Over the years, the Sanctuary has also become a cherished attraction to Central Florida visitors. Attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, the Sanctuary offers a unique environment for bird watching, and a tremendous opportunity for photographing wildlife on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast. Admission into the Sanctuary has always been free, giving the general public a great opportunity to visit and learn about Florida's wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, through their hard work and dedication, the staff and volunteers of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary not only give back to Florida's natural world, but also serve as a valued asset to our community. This weekend, many of the Sanctuary's family and friends from the past 40 years will gather to celebrate the history and accomplishments of this valuable facility. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary.

**DORIS VIRGINIA TRACY TRIBUTE**

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Doris Virginia Tracy, a longtime resident of La Veta, Colorado. Mrs. Tracy was a distinguished World War Two-era pilot and loving wife and mother.

From the earliest days of her childhood in Missouri, Doris dreamed of learning to fly. She took her first ride in a bi-plane at the age of nine, and decided to become an "aviatrix," as female pilots were then known. After entering college with her sister Bernice, Doris was only the second girl to sign up for Civilian Pilot Training. After a long wait, as only one woman was allowed in the program for every nine men, she earned her license.

In order to continue flying and serve her country during World War Two, she applied